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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/662,844	09/15/2000	Yasuyuki Susa	196824US0	2015

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OBLON SPIVAK MCCLELLAND MAIER & NEUSTADT PC
FOURTH FLOOR
1755 JEFFERSON DAVIS HIGHWAY
ARLINGTON, VA 22202

EXAMINER

CORBIN, ARTHUR L

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

1761

DATE MAILED: 11/07/2002

6

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/662,844

Applicant(s)

SUSA ET AL

Examiner

ARTHUR L. CORBIN

Group Art Unit

1761

— The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet beneath the correspondence address —

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, such period shall, by default, expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 8-1-02
- ☐ This action is **FINAL**.
- ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, **prosecution as to the merits is closed** in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- ☒ Claim(s) 1-22 is/are pending in the application.
- Of the above claim(s) 1-6, 19-22 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- ☒ Claim(s) 7-18 is/are rejected.
- ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction or election requirement

Application Papers

- ☐ The proposed drawing correction, filed on _____ is ☐ approved ☐ disapproved.
- ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are objected to by the Examiner
- ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119 (a)-(d)

- ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119 (a)-(d).
- ☐ All ☐ Some ☐ None of the:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
- ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a))

*Certified copies not received: _____

Attachment(s)

- ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s), PTO-1449, Paper No(s) 3
- ☒ Notice of Reference(s) Cited, PTO-892
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948
- ☐ Interview Summary, PTO-413
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application, PTO-152
- ☐ Other _____

Office Action Summary

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1. Claims 1-16 and 19-22 stand withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b), as being drawn to a nonelected invention, there being no allowable generic or linking claim. Applicant timely traversed the restriction (election) requirement in Paper No. 5.

Applicant's traversal had been considered but is not convincing for the reasons set forth in Paper No. 4

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

The changes made to 35 U.S.C. 102(e) by the American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA) do not apply to the examination of this application as the application being examined was not (1) filed on or after November 29, 2000, or (2) voluntarily published under 35 U.S.C. 122(b). Therefore, this application is examined under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) prior to the amendment by the AIPA (pre-AIPA 35 U.S.C. 102(e)).

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

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4. Claims 7, 8, 13 and 16-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being clearly anticipated by Susa et al (cols. 5-6 and claim 5).

Susa et al discloses a pickle solution including 30 units per 100 grams pickle transglutaminase; a protein, e.g. albumen, whey protein, sodium caseinate; water and a salt, e.g. sodium chloride, sodium nitrite, polyphosphate, sodium caseinate. The pickle solution is prepared by adding the transglutaminase to a mixture of the other pickle components, and the pickle is stored for 24 hours before being used in the preparation of processed meat products.

5. Claims 7, 8, 13, 16 and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being clearly anticipated by Soeda et al (cols. 3-5, 8, 10 and 11).

Soeda et al discloses a solution including 1000 units of transglutaminase; a protein, e.g. casein, soybean protein, egg albumen; a salt, e.g. sodium caseinate, calcium chloride, sodium citrate, sodium phosphate; and water. The solution is prepared by adding the transglutaminase to the other components of the solution, and the solution is then used in preparing processed meat products.

6. Claim 9 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Susa et al or Soeda et al in view of Wan et al.

It would have been obvious to include ^{anserine}anserine or carnosine in the solution of either primary reference in order to inhibit transglutaminase activity since it is old to use either of these components to inhibit transglutaminase activity in the preparation of processed meat products, e.g. ^{ssd}surimi-based products, as evidenced by Wan et al.

7. Claims 10-12, 14 and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Susa et al or Soeda et al in view of Nowsad et al.

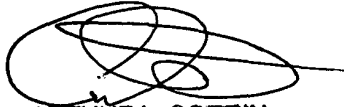
It would have been obvious to include 0.1M ammonium chloride in ^{the} solution of either primary reference in order to inhibit transglutaminase activity since it is old to use 0.1 M ammonium chloride to inhibit transglutaminase activity in ^{the} preparation of processed meat products, e.g. surimi paste, ^{as} evidenced by Nowsad et al.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Arthur Corbin whose telephone number is 703 308-3850. The examiner can normally be reached on Tuesday-Friday from 10 AM to 7:30 PM and on alternate Mondays.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Milton Cano can be reached on 703 308-3929. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703 872-9310 for regular communications and 703 872-9310 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703 308-0661.

Examiner Corbin/ng
November 4, 2002


ARTHUR L. CORBIN
PRIMARY EXAMINER

11-5-02